

Application No. 10/057,983
Amendment dated January 12, 2005
Reply to Office Action of October 12, 2004

REMARKS

In response to the inquiries and request for additional information contained in the Office Action of October 12, 2004, the objective function of claims 1, 15, and 25 was created by applicant. As stated in the amended summary, existing supply chain management techniques use linear programming to maximize profits in view of various constraints, such as expected sales volumes, prices, and costs. However these techniques do not address other factors such as desired customer service levels, margin levels or inventory levels. Moreover, none of the known techniques allow a user to selectively weigh these factors as needed and desired. The present invention addresses these deficiencies through the objective function of claims 1, 15, and 25.

Conclusion

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that all pending claims are allowable over the art of record, and the application is submitted to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and a timely Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

In the event that an appropriate fee amount is not enclosed by check for fees associated with new claims, an extension of time or an Information Disclosure Statement, fees that may be due, please charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayments to deposit account no. 50-1349.

Finally, in the event that the Examiner considers certain currently rejected claims to be allowable over the prior art and feels that informal discussion would be helpful in progressing the current application toward allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

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